

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A service discovery protocol server for allowing an apparatus using a first service discovery protocol, to discover a service information using of a service that uses a second service discovery protocol different from said first service discovery protocol, said server comprising;

a common database for storing service information defined by a plurality of different and distinct service discovery protocols including said first and second service discovery protocols, in which the service information stored in the common database is written in a common format; and

first and second handler means for handling said first and second service discovery protocols, respectively, each of said first and second handler means including a conversion means for mutually converting service information between a format used in said first or second service discovery protocol handled in said first or second handler means, respectively, and said common format,

wherein said conversion means does not convert the service information from said first or second service discovery protocol when the service information is in the same format as that contained in the common database and does convert the service information from said first or second service discovery protocol when the service information is not in the same format as that contained in said common database.

Claim 2 (Previously presented): A server as claimed in claim 1, wherein said service information is defined for each service attribute, and wherein said conversion means converts said service information between one service attribute of said first or second handler means and another service attribute of said common database, said one service attribute having the same semantic description as said another service attribute.

Claim 3 (Original): A server as claimed in claim 2, wherein said service attribute includes a service name, a vender name, a location and a service discovery protocol handler name.

Claim 4 (Previously presented): A server as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of said first and second handler means includes a service discovery protocol control means, a communication protocol control means and a communication means.